

B-3215 - B-3218
917-935 S. Charles St. (East side)
Baltimore, Md.
Private access

1845-1850

This row of two story plus attic, two bay wide brick houses with gable roofs is typical of the type of two story plus attic house built in large numbers in this area of Federal Hill in the 1840's. The houses, which now generally serve a mixed commercial/residential function, were built by George Williamson and John S. Gittings, both active real estate developers in the area. Most of the houses have recently had their facades altered to accomodate new storefront designs.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

B-3216
MAGI 0432162404

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

919-929 S. Charles St.

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

☐ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
☐ STRUCTURE
☐ SITE
☐ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

☐ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
☐ BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION
☐ IN PROCESS
☐ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
☐ UNOCCUPIED
☒ WORK IN PROGRESS (725-727)
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
☐ YES: UNRESTRICTED
☐ NO

PRESENT USE

☐ AGRICULTURE ☐ MUSEUM
☒ COMMERCIAL ☐ PARK
☐ EDUCATIONAL ☒ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
☐ ENTERTAINMENT ☐ RELIGIOUS
☐ GOVERNMENT ☐ SCIENTIFIC
☐ INDUSTRIAL ☐ TRANSPORTATION
☐ MILITARY ☐ OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Telephone #: 707-1111

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Records Office Room 601

Liber #: 10011
Folio #: 10011

STREET & NUMBER

Baltimore City Courthouse

CITY, TOWN

Baltimore

STATE

Maryland 21202

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

☐ FEDERAL ☐ STATE ☐ COUNTY ☐ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

B-3216

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR
☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☐ UNALTERED
☒ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

This row of two story plus attic brick houses with gable roofs were built as a unit along this side of Charles St. in the late 1830's. Most of the houses had been covered with formstone but several are currently being restored and the original facades exposed. Several of the houses have had, or are currently in the process of having, their first floors converted into shop-fronts.

The houses are two and a half stories in height, 13' wide, and occupy lots 67' deep. The houses are two rooms deep and probably originally had one story high, two bay deep rear additions. Today the additions have been altered or replaced. 919 S. Charles St. has a one story, one bay deep frame addition; 921 has a two story, two bay deep brick addition; 923 has a one story, two bay deep brick addition; 925 has the same basic addition with a modern, added four bay deep extension; 927 has the original one story, two bay deep addition; and 929 has a long one story addition running back to the end of the lot. The houses are constructed in common bond. 919 and 923 have been covered with formstone. The low-pitched gable roofs have a simple, two-tier brick cornice that extends continuously across the facades. Each house originally had a double rectangular chimney located along the south side of both the front and rear gables. Most of the rear gable chimneys survive but a number of the front roof chimneys are gone. The rear additions do not currently have chimneys.

The houses originally all had flat wood lintels and sills on the door and window openings. Today, these remain at 921 and 929 S. Charles St. At 919 and 923 the lintels and sills have been hidden by the formstone covering, and at 925 and 927 the original wood sills have been replaced by brick header sills in the current restoration. The window openings at 919, 921, and 923 are filled with 1/1 double hung sash; at 925, 927, and 929 the second floor windows are filled with new 6/6 sash and the attic story windows with new 3/3 sash.

A number of the houses have had their first floors converted into store-fronts. At 921 S. Charles St. a late Victorian glass and panel door, set beneath a single light transom, is flanked by a wide plate glass shop window with two square glass panels above it, set on a paneled wooden dado. The entire store-front area is surmounted by a simple wooden cornice consisting of just a crown molding. 925 and 927 S. Charles are in the process of being restored and remodeled. The first floor shop-front areas will have large expanses of plate glass windows. 929 S. Charles has a modern six panel door set beneath a single light transom and an added, first floor bay window with conical, shingled roof and multi-paned lights. The entire first floor area of 929 has been re-faced with new brick and the area capped by an applied wooden crown molding. The first floor area of 919 has been changed also, with the door now placed at street level and the original window replaced by a small, square window. The houses originally sat on high basements, as evidenced by 923 S. Charles St., whose entrance is reached by six stone steps.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW				
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION		
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)		
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION				

SPECIFIC DATES 1840-1850

BUILDER/ARCHITECT George W. Williamson

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

This row of houses, which originally included 917 S. Charles St. also, is representative of a large group of such two story plus attic houses built in the 1840's and 1850's in the Federal Hill area to accomodate the growing labor force centered around the Baltimore waterfront. Although showing possible stylistic influences from Greek Revival style buildings constructed in Baltimore in the 1820's and 1830's (in the proportions of the attic windows and the chaste exterior details), the outstanding feature of these houses is their extreme simplicity of design and detailing. They are practical adaptations of a current mode of building, designed to meet the need for efficient, low-cost housing for a growing working class community. The floor plan is essentially the same as that of the later two story with dormer windows type of house, which generally preceded this type chronologically--the two main floors having both a front and back room separated by an enclosed, narrow, and tightly winding staircase. Both front and back rooms usually have fireplaces. The kitchens were usually located in a rear addition. The increase in height of the third story (from a dormer story to an attic story) allowed the third story to be divided into two separate rooms, in place of the one open room usual with the dormer-storied houses, thus providing welcome additional, private living space.

Because houses of this type were usually rented, a block of such houses was often held by a single landlord, in most cases the builder or developer. This was the case here, with George Williamson holding the lots (all except for two, which he leased in 1871) until his death, and his son, David B. Williamson, continuing to hold the property until his death in 1904, at which time the houses finally left the family.¹ George W. Williamson, the builder of these houses, was the son of David Williamson who owned several blocks of property in this section of Federal Hill, acquired before 1800. David Williamson developed the block bounded by the South side of the unit block of Montgomery St., the 800 block of S. Charles St., the unit block of Henrietta St., and the 800 block of Light St. It was he who laid out Williamson alley, now known as Wheeling St.

Many of these houses have recently been renovated and converted from residences to combination store-fronts/residences. They were originally only residences.

¹Baltimore City Land Records, Liber RO 2098, Folio 209

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION _____

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

M.E. Hayward / Historic Sites Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Maryland Historical Trust / Struever Bros. & Eccles

STREET & NUMBER

4/79
TELEPHONE

1745 Circle Rd.

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Ruxton

Maryland 21204

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
Washington, D.C. 20240

B-3216

HISTORIC PRESERVATION CERTIFICATION

APPLICATION — PART 1

(Pursuant to the Tax Reform Act of 1976)

Instructions: Applicant should read the instructions carefully before completing application. No Certification may be made unless a completed application form has been received (P.L. 94-455). Use typewriter or print clearly in dark ink to complete the application form. If additional space is needed to complete Part 1, use the reverse side or a separate plain sheet of paper clearly indicating the owner's name and mailing address. Part 1 of this application may be completed and sent to the appropriate State Historic Preservation Officer at any time during the year, and may be sent separately or with Part 2.

PART 1 EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE

1. NAME OF PROPERTY:

Address of property, Street 925-927 South Charles Street
 City Baltimore County City State Maryland Zip Code 21230
 Name of historic district in which property is located Federal Hill

2. DESCRIPTION OF PHYSICAL APPEARANCE:

(see instructions for map and photograph requirements—use reverse side if necessary)

see reverse

3. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE:

(use reverse side if necessary)

see reverse

Date of construction (if known) Approx. 1820-40 ☒ Original site ☐ Moved Date of alterations (if known): _____

4. NAME AND MAILING ADDRESS OF OWNER:

Name David D. Arnold, Mark A. Shevland
 Street 5901 Pontiac Street
 City Berwyn Heights, Maryland 20740 State _____ Zip Code _____
 Telephone Number (during day): Area Code work - days (202) 383-2390, home (301) 345-4244

I hereby attest that the information I have provided is, to the best of my knowledge, correct, and that I am owner of the property described above.

Signature David D. Arnold Mark A. Shevland Date 6/15/79

For office use only

The structure described above is included within the boundaries of the National Register historic district and ☒ contributes ☐ does not contribute to the character of the district.The structure ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6) and ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with the Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60).The structure is located in a district which ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to meet National Register Criteria for Evaluation (36 CFR 60.6). ☐ will likely ☐ will not be nominated to the National Register in accord with Department of the Interior procedures (36 CFR 60). and ☐ appears ☐ does not appear to contribute to the character of said district.

Signature [Signature] Date 6-25-79
 State Historic Preservation Officer

This property has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the Department of the Interior (36 CFR 67) and, if subject to depreciation under section 167 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1954,

☐ is hereby certified a historic structure☐ does not contribute to the character of the historic district and does not merit certification as a historic structure. Reasons given on the attached sheet.

Signature _____ Date _____
 Keeper of the National Register

2. Description: Each building is a three story brick structure with cornice above first level. The ceiling of the first level is 14'. The interior space is approximately 2800 square feet in both buildings combined. The buildings are integrated from previous renovations. They are joined by a common rear stairway for egress to 2nd level apartments and by an opening in the first level commercial spaces.

The landscape is flat and is located 2.1/2 blocks from the inner harbor and 2 blocks from the Cross Street Market.

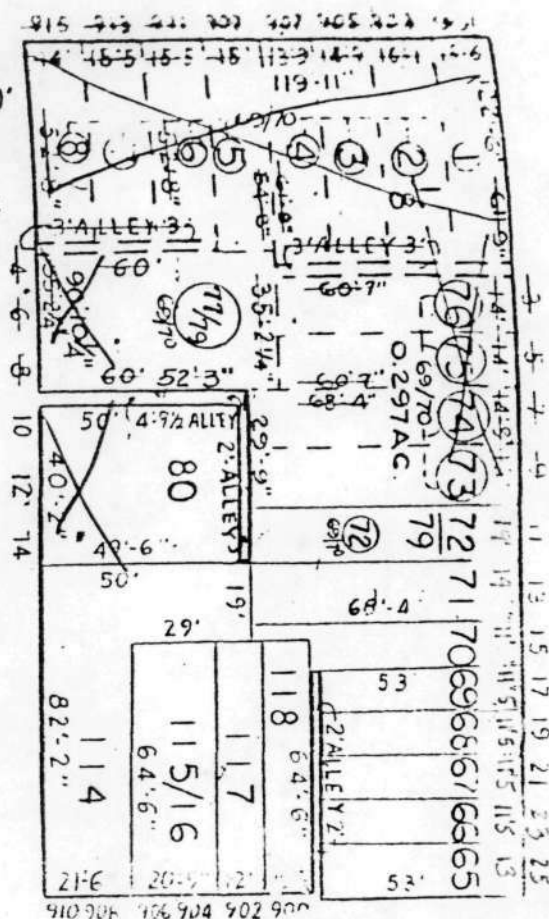
Previous Alterations: 1) The first level floor was lowered about 4' to street level approximately 50 years ago. This followed a virtually unanimous trend in the South Charles Street Federal Hill area. 2) The interior space of the two buildings were integrated as stated above in the distant past. 3) A basement was dug out under 925 in World War II. 4) A 13' x 17' rear addition was made to 925 first level just following World War II. 5) Two second floor baths were added after interior plumbing became popular. 6) Approximately 40 years ago the first level exterior was remodeled using metal facing and large picture windows. This feature has been removed and replaced with a historical facade of appropriate era.

Other alterations over the long history of the property have been made from time to time but little is known about them. Above are considered the most significant and recent.

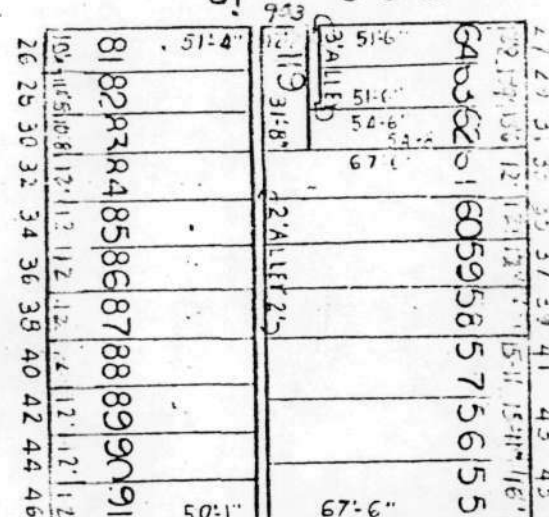
3. Significance: The particular buildings of subject are significant structures when viewed as an element of the historical neighborhood in which they are located. The structures are approximately 150 years of age which predates the American Civil War. No known events or personalities can be tied directly to the property yet many such historical recollections can be made about Federal Hill and the surrounding Inner Harbor area. Included as an attachment to this statement are pages from a Federal Hill booklet which describes significant historical events from early settlement into the 20th century.

HENRIETTA

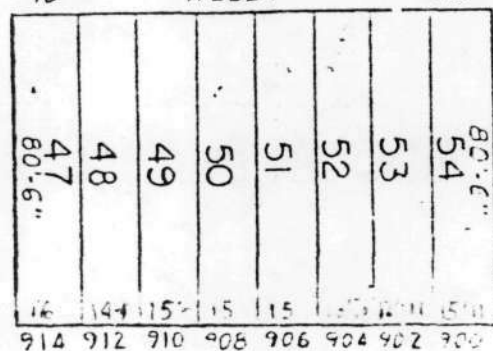
ST.



COURT



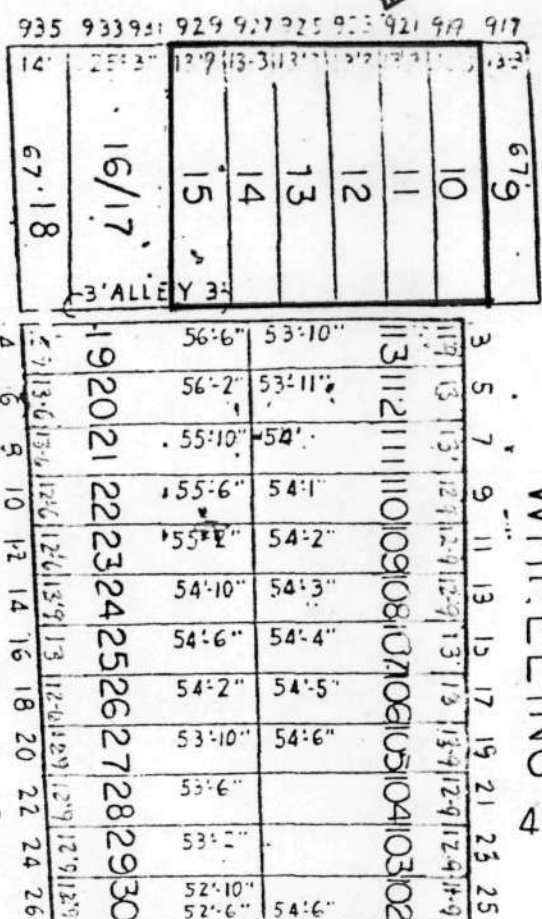
ALLEY



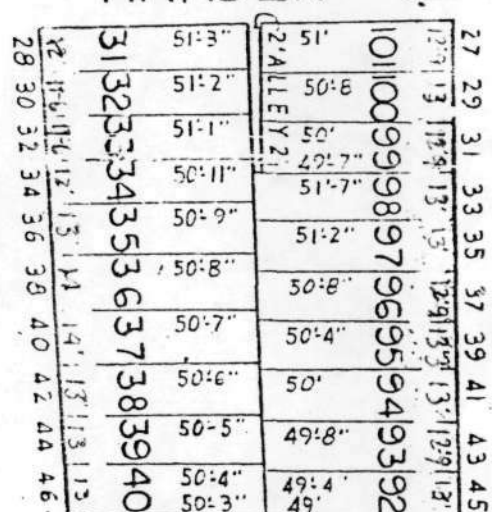
80.

WHEELING
40'

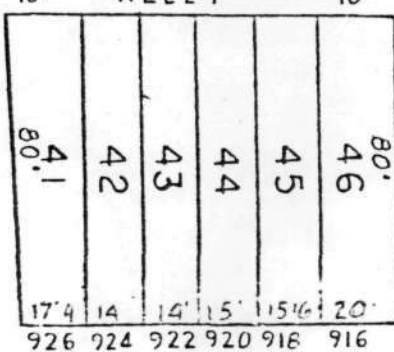
51.



HARDEN



10' ALLEY



LIGHT

E. HAMBURG

S T.

ST.

934-B

534-A

919

B-3216
919-929 S. Charles Street
Block 0918 Lots 010-015
Baltimore City
Baltimore East Quad.





B-3216 919-929 S. Charles St.

M.E.H. 6/79

West elevation